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STUDIES ON INDIAN AND BURMESE ANNONACEAE

Debika Das
Botanical Survey of India, Central National Herbarium, Sibpur

ABSTRACT

Many names of the species of Annonaceae in Flora of British India by J. D. Hooker & T. Thomson Vol. I, 1872 have been changed by subsequent authors working on the plants of that family. In the present paper new names for 6 species and one variety have been proposed giving reasons for the change in nomenclature.

While working on the Indian and Burmese Annonaceae some discrepancies in nomenclature are noticed which require clarification. Hooker f. & Thomson in Flora Indica 145, 1855, described a genus *Oxymitra* with four species, not knowing that this name had been used for a Ricciaceous genus by Bischoff & Lindenb. in Syn. Hepat. Eur. 124, 1829. Hooker f. & Thomson were followed by most authors who treated this name as valid for the Annonaceous genus. Van Steenis, in Bull. Bot. Gard. Buitz. ser. 3, 17 : 458, 1948, pointed out this mistake and also suggested a new generic name, *Friesodielsia*, for this genus. The generic name *Friesodielsia* is adopted here for the Indian & Burmese species, although J. Sinclair retains *Oxymitra* Hk. f. & Th. in Gardens' Bull. 14: 447, 1955, apparently without proper reasons. The names of the Indian and Burmese species known under *Oxymitra* are now transferred to *Friesodielsia* and the new nomenclature is given below :

Friesodielsia affinis (Hk. f. & Th.) Das, comb. nov.
Basionym : *Oxymitra affinis* Hk. f. & Th. in Fl. Br. Ind. 1:70, 1872; Craib, Fl. Siam. Enum. 1:48, 1925; Sinclair in Gardens' Bull. 14:450, 1955.
Distribution: Burma.

F. discolor (Craib) Das, comb. nov.
Basionym: *Oxymitra discolor* Craib in Kew Bull. 1925:11, 1925 & Fl. Siam. Enum. 1:49, 1925. *O. biswasiana* Chatt. in Journ. Ind. Bot. Soc. 19:2, 1940.
Distribution: Burma.

F. fornicata (Roxb.) Das, comb. nov.
Basionym: *Uvaria fornicata* Roxb. Fl. Ind. 2:662, 1832.
Oxymitra fornicata Hk. f. & Th. Fl. Ind. 146, 1855 & in Fl. Br. Ind. 1:71, 1872; Kanjilal *et al* Fl. Assam 1:46, 1935; King in Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. Calc. 4:124, t. 156B, 1893. *Uvaria roxburghiana* Wall. Cat. 6423 A, nom. nud.
Distribution: Assam, Silhet & Andamans.

F. maclellandii (Hk. f. & Th.) Das, comb. nov.
Basionym: *Oxymitra maclellandii* Hk. f. & Th. in Fl. Br. Ind. 1:70, 1872.
Distribution: Burma.

F. stenopetala (Hk. f. & Th.) Das, comb. nov.
Basionym: *Oxymitra stenopetala* Hk. f. & Th. in Fl. Br. Ind. 1:71, 1872.
Distribution: Burma.

Safford in Bull. Torr. Bot. Club 39:501-8, 1912, has correctly shown that the genus *Unona* Linn. f. (1781) is confined to American region only, and that the Asiatic species placed by many authors under this genus should be transferred to another genus distinct from *Unona*. These species can be conveniently grouped under *Desmos* of Loureiro, who established the genus with two species *e.g. D. cochinchinensis* and *D. chinensis* in Fl. Cochinch. 1:352, 1790. Dunn in Kew Bull. 1914:183, 1914, described a new species, *Unona ramarowii*; this combination is to be considered illegitimate for reasons stated above. So a new name for the species is here proposed:

Desmos ramarowii (Dunn) Das, comb. nov,
Basionym: *Unona ramarowii* Dunn in Kew Bull. 1914:183, 1914.
Distribution: Madras, Travancore.

Melodorum Lour. (Fl. Cochinch. 1:351, 1790) has been antedated by *Fissistigma* Griff. as shown by Merrill in Philipp. Journ. Sc. Bot. 15:130, 1919, and several new combinations were made including *Fissistigma polyanthum* Merr. King described a variety of this species as *Melodorum polyanthum* Hk. f. & Th. var. *elliptica*. This varietal name requires to be changed in accordance with the change in nomenclature of the genus. Therefore the following new combination is proposed here:

Fissistigma polyanthum (Hk. f. & Th.) Merr. var. **elliptica** (King) Das, comb. nov.
Basionym: *Melodorum polyanthum* Hk. f. & Th. var. *elliptica* King in Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. Calc. 4:131, 1893.
Distribution: Bengal, Chittagong hill tracts.